

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 21446 281225Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 ICAE-00 SSO-00 CA-01
INRE-00 /048 W

-----121371 281231Z /44

O 281153Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8453

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 21446

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: REF

SUBJ: REFUGEES ABOARD WORLD VISION VESSEL, THE CALOADER

REF A. SINGAPORE 3270; B. KUALA LUMPUR 7624;
C. STATE 161499

1. WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL (WVI) REP PAUL JONES CALLED
ON THE EMBASSY JULY 27 TO ADVISE THAT THE VESSEL "THE
CALOADER", STILL WITH 21 REFUGEES ABOARD, REMAINS OFFSHORE
KOTA BARU, MALAYSIA.

2. JONES REPORTED THAT WVI REPRESENTATIVE IN SINGAPORE,
JOHN CALDER, ADVISED HIM THAT TH THE VESSEL WILL SOON HEAD
FOR THAILAND. HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTS THE CALOADER WILL
ARRIVE IN THAILAND AUGUST 1 AT KO SICHANG ISLAND SOUTHEAST
OF THE LAEM SING CAMP.

3. THE CALOADER IS REGISTERED IN THAILAND AND IS
SEVENTY PERCENT THAI OWNED, THIRTY PERCENT UNITED STATES
CITIZEN OWNED.

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4. JONES GAVE US A COPY OF A JULY 27 COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM
WHICH HE RECEIVED FROM HAL BARBER, WVI REPRESENTATIVE
IN MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA. THE TELEGRAM STATES THAT STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, EXPLAINED
U.S. POLICY CONCERNING REFUGEES PICKED UP BY U.S. FLAG,
OR U.S. OWNED SHIPS. BARBER MAY EXPECT THAT OUR POLICY

CONCERNING RESCUES BY U.S. OWNED SHIPS APPLIES TO THE
CALOADER EVEN THOUGH THE VESSEL IS ONLY 30 PERCENT U.S.
OWNED.

5. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT BECAUSE VESSEL IS OF THAI REGISTRY
AND OF PREDOMINANTLY THAI OWNERSHIP, WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO
AVOID SPECIAL GUARANTEES OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED
STATES AS DESCRIBED REFTEL C. WE, THEREFORE, PLAN TO
ADVISE THE UNHCR AND THE RTG THAT WE CAN OFFER NO SPECIAL
GUARANTEES OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT THAT
WE CAN PROCESS THE REFUGEES UNDER NORMAL LRP
PROCEDURES WITH PRIORITY GOING TO CATEGORY I AND II
REFUGEES. AS A VERY LAST RESORT, IF VESSEL IS DENIED
LANDING, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO AUTHORIZE US TO GIVE
GUARANTEES BECAUSE VESSEL IS UNDER CHARTER TO A U.S.-
HEADQUARTERED VOLAG AND BECAUSE VESSEL IS RELATIVELY SMALL
AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO LAND IN ANY
NEARBY COUNTRY IF IT IS REFUSED ENTRY IN THAILAND.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT DECISION ON OFFERING US GUARANTEE
AS LAST RESORT ONLY. O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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